

Attorney General, and I sincerely urge my colleagues to give him their full support as well.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss my thoughts on the nomination of Senator John Ashcroft to be the United States Attorney General.

One of the first issues I faced as a new Senator in 1989 was the controversial nomination of former Senator John Tower to be Secretary of Defense. As this was the first time I was faced with the Senate's constitutional "advise and consent" role, it was incumbent upon me to learn more about this important role through study and through conversations with my fellow Senators. It was also important to devise a standard to evaluate Presidential nominations so as to treat nominees of both Republican and Democratic Presidents with consistency and fairness.

I came to the conclusion that my general policy should be to support nominations made by a President, provided that the individual is appropriately qualified and capable of performing the duties of the position. A President is entitled to a Cabinet of his or her own choosing unless a nominee is proven unethical or unqualified. I would not oppose a nominee just because I disagree with them on a policy matter.

For judicial branch nominations, however, I apply a different standard. I have made this distinction between executive and judicial nominees throughout my Senate career. For example, during the consideration of Clarence Thomas' nomination to the Supreme Court in 1991, I argued that:

By no means does a president, even one of my own party, have the right to pick virtually anyone he wants who meets minimal qualifications with respect to character, legal ability and judicial temperament. This is not a pass-fail test. In my mind, such a process is entirely proper for appointees to the executive branch of government. The president should be given wide latitude in selecting his Cabinet secretaries and key agency personnel. But under the Constitution, such deference is inappropriate in the confirmation of Supreme Court justices.

I used this policy in evaluating Presidential nominations throughout the Bush Presidency and the subsequent Clinton Presidency, and will continue to use this standard to evaluate the nominations put forth by our current President. In order to determine a nominee's qualifications and capabilities, I review the statements of nominees, follow the hearings conducted on a nominee, and listen to the opinions expressed by my colleagues. I have done all of these in the case of this nomination and I am here today to express my support for the confirmation of John Ashcroft to be the next United States Attorney General.

A review of Senator Ashcroft's record shows that he is qualified to serve in the position of United States Attorney General. He has a long and distinguished tenure in public service, serv-

ing as Missouri's Attorney General, Governor and Senator. During his terms as Governor, John Ashcroft served as Chairman of the Republican Governors' Association and as Chairman of the National Governors' Association. In addition, during his tenure in the Senate he served on the Senate Judiciary Committee and chaired the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution.

Senator Ashcroft is also capable of performing the duties of United States Attorney General as he is a fair and judicious individual. Some have raised questions concerning his ability to enforce laws he has opposed in the past, but during a meeting I had with him he assured me that as Attorney General he would work to uphold the laws of this nation, including those with which he disagrees. I believe that these qualities prove Senator Ashcroft to be capable of performing the duties of Attorney General and will serve him well in this role.

As anyone can tell from our records, Senator Ashcroft and I have very different opinions on many important issues, including abortion, civil and gay rights, and environmental protection. I will continue in my role as a Senator from Vermont to support legislation upholding the *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion, protecting access to clinics that perform abortion services, combating employment discrimination and hate crimes based on sexual orientation, and protecting our environment. I will also closely follow the decisions Senator Ashcroft makes as Attorney General and speak out when I feel those decisions are wrong. However, while we may have different opinions on many issues, in my mind that alone is not enough to disqualify a nominee.

THE LOCKERBIE VERDICT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today's unanimous verdict by a Scottish court convicting a Libyan intelligence agent of murder in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie concludes an exhaustive terrorism trial that clearly exposed Libyan state sponsorship of the mass murder of 270 individuals, including 189 Americans. A second Libyan charged with the same offense was acquitted. Although no verdict can compensate the victims' loved ones for their loss, the life sentence handed down to Libyan intelligence agent Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi represents a first step for the families, the prosecution, and the Western nations that supported bringing the Libyans to justice.

Nonetheless, the trial's conclusion must not obscure the task ahead: holding Libya accountable for full compliance with the U.N. Security Council resolutions governing the sanctions regime against that country. These resolutions mandate that, before sanctions can be lifted, Libya must (1) Cease all forms of terrorism; (2) Disclose all in-

formation about the Lockerbie bombing; (3) Accept responsibility for the actions of Libyan officials; (4) Pay appropriate compensation to the victims' families; and (5) Cooperate with the French investigation into the 1989 bombing of UTA Flight 772 over Niger.

Full Libyan compliance with the U.N. resolutions must be the standard for terminating the sanctions, which are believed by many experts to be responsible for the significant decline in Libya's sponsorship of terrorism overseas.

Of perhaps more immediate importance to the United States is the question of the separate U.S. sanctions currently in place against Libya, primarily as a consequence of its sponsorship of state terrorism. True, Libya did hand over the Lockerbie defendants in 1999 and expel the Abu Nidal terrorist organization from its territory in 1998. The Libyan government has also seemingly reduced its contacts with radical Palestinian organizations espousing violence against Israel. In 1999, after the conviction in absentia of six Libyans by a French court for the UTA 772 bombing, Libya compensated the families of the 171 victims. However, it has not turned over the convicted individuals for trial or acknowledged responsibility.

In addition to the issue of terrorism, the United States must consider Libya's covert and sometimes armed intervention in the affairs of other African nations, including Chad, Sudan, and Sierra Leone, as well as Libya's continuing development of weapons of mass destruction. Libya used chemical weapons acquired from Iran against Chad in 1986 and has constructed chemical weapons facilities at Rabta and Tarhunah. According to the Congressional Research Service, Libya tried to buy nuclear weapons or components from China in 1975, India in 1978, Pakistan in 1980, the Soviet Union in 1981, Argentina in 1983, Brazil in 1984, and Belgium in 1985. The United Kingdom accused Libya of smuggling Chinese Scud missiles through Gatwick Airport in 2000. The Pentagon believes China has provided missile technology training to Libyan workers.

While I applaud the Lockerbie verdict, I believe any consequent American policy changes toward Libya must take into account its possession of chemical and potentially nuclear weapons, its compliance with existing U.N. Security Council mandates on the Lockerbie and UTA bombings, and any residual support for state terrorism. If Libya truly wishes to enter the ranks of law-abiding nations, with the economic and diplomatic benefits such status affords, it must satisfy the international community's concerns on these issues.

TRIBUTE TO WARREN RUDMAN

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor former United States Senator Warren Rudman

of New Hampshire, whose dedication to public service has earned him the respect and admiration of a grateful nation. On January 8th of this year, Senator Rudman was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal which recognizes exemplary service by a citizen of the United States. The medal recognizes Senator Rudman for co-authoring the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction law that requires automatic spending cuts if annual deficit targets are missed.

Senator Rudman served in the United States Army as a combat platoon leader and company commander during the Korean conflict. After graduating from Boston College Law school, he returned to New Hampshire to practice law and was later appointed Attorney General of the State.

Senator Rudman serves as Chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and was also appointed to serve as Vice Chairman of the Commission on Roles and Capabilities of the United States Intelligence Community.

During his distinguished twelve years in the Senate, Senator Rudman established a record of independence. While a member of the Senate, he served on the Ethics Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee, where he was active on the Subcommittees on Defense and Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary.

Warren Rudman is an exemplary citizen who has dedicated himself to serving the people of New Hampshire and our country for over three decades. He continues to selflessly give of his time within the community and serves on the Board of Trustees of Boston College, Valley Forge Military Academy, the Brookings Institution and the Aspen Institute.

The people of our state and country look to Senator Rudman with tremendous gratitude and admiration for all that he has done. It has been a pleasure and privilege of mine to have worked with a leader as extraordinary as Warren Rudman. Warren, it is an honor to represent you in the United States Senate.

RETIREMENT OF U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE, HON. BRETT DORIAN

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Judge Brett Dorian as he retires after almost 12 years as a United States Bankruptcy Judge in Fresno, California.

Brett Dorian's legal career reflects a long and honorable commitment to public service. His dedication spans more than three decades, beginning with his service in the United States Air Force. Upon graduation from Boalt Hall, University of California, Berkeley Mr. Dorian helped and assisted the underprivileged in Central California as a legal aid lawyer. He then went on to a distinguished career in private practice where he specialized in bankruptcy law

and served as a bankruptcy trustee for many years.

In 1988, Judge Dorian was appointed to the United States Bankruptcy Court in Fresno. He served as a Bankruptcy Judge for almost 12 years. Judge Dorian served an eight county area in Central California. Judge Dorian has long been known as a thorough, dedicated and compassionate judge. Throughout his judicial career, he was diligent in carefully balancing the law in his cases and protecting the rights of those who appear before him.

Judge Dorian has served the people of California as well as all Americans with great distinction. I am honored to pay tribute to him today and I encourage my fellow colleagues to join me in wishing Judge Brett Dorian continued happiness as he embarks on new endeavors.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on New Year's Day, the Governor of Michigan signed into law a bill to take discretion away from local gun boards in issuing concealed gun licenses. The new law, scheduled to take effect on July 1st of this year, would increase the number of concealed handgun licenses in our state by 200,000 to 300,000—a ten-fold increase.

The concealed weapons law is being challenged by a coalition of law enforcement and community groups across our state called the People Who Care About Kids. This coalition is working to obtain 151,000 signatures needed to suspend the implementation of the law and put the issue before voters in 2002.

Other groups in our state are also working along side the coalition to keep our streets and our communities safe. One such group is the Detroit-based Save Our Sons And Daughters, SOSAD. I ask unanimous consent to print an article in the RECORD from the Detroit News about SOSAD to show what they are doing to fight the concealed weapons bill and to keep our children safe from gun violence.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Detroit News, Jan. 30, 2001]

NEW STATE GUN LAW ALARMS SOSAD GROUP
REDOUBLES EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN
(By Rhonda Bates-Rudd)

DETROIT—After 14 years of helping hundreds of grieving families, who've lost a loved one as a result of homicide, suicide, disease and natural death, Clementine Barfield, founder and president of the nonprofit, Detroit-based Save Our Sons and Daughters, says the organization is facing a new challenge.

Michigan's latest concealed gun legislation, which limits the power of county gun boards to deny gun permits, has moved the group to turn up the heat in their efforts to promote peace.

Homicide is among the leading causes of death for African-American youths, recent data compiled by the Michigan Department of Community Health said.

"Homicide is real and the effects on children in our community is immeasurable," Barfield said. "People should not believe that they are immune to this type of tragedy. Many children already have a false confidence in weapons, as evidenced by reports of their use of guns and violence in the news. If ever there was a right time to promote peace in our community, the time is now."

In March, the group's mothers will reveal their new image, a white kerchief and arm band, which is both a symbol of their grief and desire for peace.

The nonprofit group, which also honors other groups that help the grieving after deadly tragedies, is seeking corporate and community sponsorship to develop programs and activities for youth that will promote nonviolence. The organization also is in need of volunteers willing to make a long-term service commitment to perform an array of administrative tasks, as well as spread the message of peace to youth who, often, enlist the use of violence and handguns to settle disputes.

USHER IN MORE DEATH

Save Our Sons and Daughters member Cheryl Ross, her husband and their four children moved to the suburbs after her son, DeWunn Carter, 23, was shot to death in 1977 at a Coney Island Restaurant on Chicago near Evergreen, just a few steps from the front door of their former home.

"I believe this new law will make it easier for more people to get their hands on guns and keep them concealed, which will make it easier for more youth to get their hands on weapons," Ross said. "I think this new law is just a platform to usher in more death."

Ross, who lives in Redford Township, has a better look than most at the toll homicide takes. She is a SOSAD liaison assigned to the Detroit Police Department Homicide Unit, along with Linda Barfield and Vera Rucker.

Working in the homicide division, contacting victim's families and helping them has been therapeutic, Ross said.

Liaisons almost daily receive a list of homicides they use to create a file that includes basic information about the family, such as phone number, address and the number of family members. Serving as go-betweens, they contact the families and offer the group's counseling and support group services. They also provide families with information about the case and how the process works.

"If they are grieving and just need someone to talk to, we are here for that, too, because as many of the SOSAD staffers are mothers who've lost children, we understand what they are going through," Ross said.

Victim liaison Rucker, who has been with SOSAD since its inception, said "No one can understand what you're going through—the grief, anger, anguish and frustration—unless they've lost a child to homicide."

Her daughter, Melody "Poochie" Rucker, 14, was shot and killed on Detroit's west side by random gunfire at a back-to-school party for Benedictine High School students in 1986.

Police Inspector William Rice, commanding officer for the Detroit police homicide unit, has been a law enforcer for 31 years. He said, without a doubt, the group's 3-year-old victim liaison office at the First precinct has been a new tool to help in the aftermath of homicide.

"After a homicide, the family is usually confronted by a lot of social and economic issues, such as how and why the crime was committed, and then they almost immediately have to deal with funeral planning and burial expenses," Rice said. "SOSAD members avail themselves to assist families with whatever it is they need."